On December 9, the Canadian-based company Structurlam Mass Timber announced it would expand its operations into the United States with a plant in Conway set to open in mid-2021.

Structurlam Announces New Mass Timber Production Facility in Conway

Structurlam is the leading mass timber manufacturer in North America. The company will invest $90 million to purchase, retrofit, and equip a former steel plant. The project will create 130 new jobs in the area and will source softwood lumber from Arkansas-grown southern pine trees.

Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, Congressman Bruce Westerman, and Arkansas Secretary of Commerce Mike Preston attended to herald the arrival of the new facility. All are excited to see the development take place and explained the statewide footprint it will have.

“You start with the softwood and hardwood you have all across South Arkansas, it’s going to be harvested and then going to be shipped up here,” Preston said. “The impact that has on those foresters, the person shipping it, the landowners, everyone involved, it’s going to be an economic impact to them.”

To get to this moment, Preston said it took many people coming together. Structurlam and Walmart had to create a partnership to get the project off the ground. The state of Arkansas and the city of Conway then played a significant role in finding the right location. From getting the conversation started to making the announcement, it took a total of 587 days.

“This is huge,” said Congressman Westerman. “Whether you’re following this issue or not, it really is a transformational moment. Arkansas is leading the way in mass timbers, and this is really putting more wind under our wings in that area. So, I’m thrilled about it.”

The new plant’s first customer will be Walmart. The Arkansas-based company plans to use more than 1.1 million cubic feet of Arkansas mass timber in their new home office campus in Bentonville.

“Structurlam is uniquely positioned to deliver its innovative approach to digital design collaboration and mass timber manufacturing to Walmart and the State of Arkansas,” said Dan Bartlett, executive vice president of Walmart Corporate Affairs in a release from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. “With their help, we are able to realize our goal of connecting our associates with nature and the beauty of Arkansas through our new home office project.”

Tree Farm Committee Honors Nine with Awards

Tree Farm Inspectors and organizations received new accolades during the final Tree Farm committee meeting of 2019 earlier this month.

Every year the group recognizes inspectors for their hard work the past 12 months. The committee met at the Wood Grill Buffet in Benton for a business meeting and to recognize its volunteer inspectors.

John Cook, the committee chairman, presented the 2019 Inspector of the Year award from John Cook, the Tree Farm Committee Chairman, at the last 2019 TF Committee Meeting.

To earn a Bronze Hard Hat, you have to sign up 25 new tree farms into the program, a Silver Hard Hat requires 50, and a Gold Hard Hat needs 100. This year, Trey
Arkansas Forestry Association
Board of Directors for 2020
(* denotes past President; + denotes USDA Liaison & special non-voting)

*John Ed Anthony - Anthony Timberlands Inc.

*Steve Anthony - Anthony Timberlands Inc.

*Allen Bedell - Circle B Logging

Michael Best - Canfor Southern Pine, inc.

*James Bibler - Retired, Bibler Lumber Co.

Tim Bitely - Clearview Forestry, Inc.

Ken Bragg - AR House of Representatives

David Brazeale - Brazeale Lumber

David Brown - Private Landowner

Dru Burford - Georgia-Pacific Corp.

David Cassels - BTG Pactual

*David Cawein - Green Bay Packaging Inc.

Mary Clapp - Stevens Forestry

*Peggy Clark - Clark Timberlands

John Cook - AR Dept. of Agriculture - Forestry Division

Jeremy Creel - Evergreen Packaging

Tom Crowder - Bragg Land Co.

Louisa Daniels - Green Bay Packaging

*Ray Dillon - Dillon Consulting

Jody Doak - Highland-Pellets

Brad Dreyer - Molpus Woodlands Group

Mary Elizabeth Eldridge - The Ross Foundation

*Thomas Faust - Faust Band Sawmill

+*Joe Fox - AR Dept. of Agriculture - Forestry Division

Joe Friend - UAPB - Keep It In the Family

Jason Gibson - Weyerhaeuser

Ed Givens - Private Landowner

Seth Glaze - Resource Management Services

*Glenn Gray - Georgia-Pacific Corp.

Robert Gray - PotlatchDeltic Corp.

John Grigsby - Toler Lumber

Doug Grimmett - Retired, Larson & McGowin Inc.

Caroll Guffey - Private Landowner

+Jim Guldin - U.S. Forest Service

Tim Hahn - West Fraser, Inc.

Greg Hay - Nutrien Ag Solutions

Robert Head - IberiaBank

John Hearnsberger - Private Landowner

Jim Hefley - Clark Timberlands

Darwin Hendrix - Landowner/Banker

Ryan Hendrix - Green Bay Packaging Inc.

Van Hendry - Hendry Hardwoods

Tony Hogue - Clearwater Paper

Harold Hooper - Stribling Equipment

Mark Karnes - The Ross Foundation

Tim Kibe - Green Bay Packaging Inc.

*Miles Lacy - Green Bay Packaging Inc.

Shannon Lassiter - ARK-LA Timber Harvesting

Rex Lawrence - Lawrence Land & Timber

Raven Lawson - Central Arkansas Water

Ernest Lovett - Retired, Larson & McGowin Inc.

Tim Lowrimore - Interfor Corp.

Michael Marter - Davis Dubose Knight Forestry

John McAlpine - Kingwood Forestry Services

Don McElroy - Anthony Timberlands Inc.

*John McEntire

Scott Milburn - Retired, PotlatchDeltic Corp.

Douglas Miller - Weyerhaeuser Co.

*Allen Morgan - Hunter-Wasson

Robert Murphy - AR Dept. of Agriculture - Forestry Division

Larry Nance - Ozark Forest Management Services

John David Neeley - Neeley Forestry

Chris Nelson - PotlatchDeltic Corp.

Ricky O’Neill - Neeley Forestry Service

Robert Parkes - Parkes Cattle Co., Inc.

Roland Partain - Anthony Timberlands Inc.

*Ron Pearce

Matt Pelkki - College of Forestry, Agriculture, & Natural Resources

Mike Pennington - L.D. Long, Inc.

Joe Pokorny - Molpus Woodlands Group

Kristy Prince - Maxwell Hardwood Flooring

*Pete Prutzman - Kingwood Forestry

Charles Purtle - Private Landowner

Steve Richardson - Richardson Wood Co.

Rick Rodenroth - Domar Industries

Scott Rowland - Nee Forestry

Ray Seymour - Drax Biomass, Inc.

David Smith - Farm Credit Services of Western AR

Mack Smith - Idaho Timber

Derrick Spinks - Ridgeway Timber

+Phil Tappe - College of Forestry, Agriculture, & Natural Resources

Bobby Taylor - Shelby Taylor Trucking

Clark Taylor - Clark Timberlands

+Norman Wagoner - Ouachita National Forest

John Wainscott - Retired, Weyerhaeuser Co.

Tammy Waters - Domtar Industries

Bruce Westerman - U.S. Representative, 4th District

Ross Whipple - Whipple Family Lands

Guy Wilkinson - International Paper

*Frank Wilson - Wilson Bros.

Harrell Wilson - Tri-W Logging

Rodney Wishard - Larson & McGowin

Jim Woodruff - Private Landowner

Honorary Board Members:

Aubra Anthony, Jr. - Anthony Family Property Holdings

John W. Gann - Private Landowner

Thomas McGill - Private Landowner

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Tree Farm Committee, con’t.

Franks, with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division, received both the Bronze and Silver Hard Hat Awards.

Trey Franks, left, holds both his Silver and Bronze Hard Hat Awards after a year of hard work.

“I was looking forward to it,” Franks said. “I kept pestering Jennifer [Johnson] about where I’m at, how far am I? I kept on pushing for it, and I was going, I think I have that many landowners that I can do.”

Earlier in the year, Franks had a big job change, and getting to his 50 new tree farms was a bit of a challenge. He explained that he would work, go home, and work some more to make sure he reached his goal. His reasoning for working so much was that he wanted to have the achievement under his belt and two cool hardhats on his wall.

Franks and Hardman were only two of the winners at the meeting. Below is a complete list of the awards presented:

**Outstanding District**
- District 5

**Inspector of the Year**
- Todd Hardman
- Anthony Timberlands, Inc.

**District Chair Award**
- Tabitha Holloway
- Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division

**Agency Award**
- Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division

**Corporate Award**
- Anthony Timberlands, Inc.

**Silver Hard Hat Award**
- Trey Franks
- Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division

- Andrew Hilton
- Silvicult

**Bronze Hard Hat Award**
- Jeff Denman
- Denman Company

- Trey Franks
- Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division

- Trayvis Todd
- Forestry Associates, Inc.

The committee also discussed topics for the upcoming year, which included the current funding for the program, the 2020 Tree Farm Conference, and next year’s inspections.

We are rounding out 2019 with one last Poll Yard question. We are looking forward to 2020 and want to know what you have planned for the new year.

December’s Poll Yard is:

**With the new year approaching, AFA wants to know what your forestry plans are. What is your forestry related goal for 2020?**

To answer this month’s question go to tinyurl.com/DecPollYard19.
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